THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Karnataka, was set up in the Excise Minister's Conference held on 4-11-1993. The terms of reference of the Working Group were:-(i) to harmonise the State Policies for sale and distribution of country liquor with decontrol; (ii) to review the Acts and Rules in the States to bring them in line with the objectives of decontrol; (iii) to rationalise Acts and Rules to ensure that potable alcohol production is regulated and controlled in a unfirm manner in all States; (iv) to remove all hindrances to market forces operating freely in respect of molasses and alcohol (v) to suggest interim measures, if any; (vi) to suggest measures to balance supply of rectified sprit to deficit States and also Government supply of country liquor to licensed vendors and chemicals and pharmaceuticals producers; and (vii) To suggest measures for checking diversion of molasses for potable alcohol production.

The recommendations of the Group are under examination.

Setting up of new fertilizer plants during the Eighth Plan

326. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some fertilizer plants in the country during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the number of fertilizer plants proposed to be set up;

(c) the location of these plants;

(d) whether Government propose to set up one plant in undivided Koraput district;

(e) if so, the site selected therefor; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a)to (c) As part of the plan to increase the production of fertilizers during the Eighth Five Year Plan, sanction has been accorded for doubling of the capacity of Vijaipur plant (Distt. Guna, Madhya Pradesh) of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) and Aonla plant (Distt. Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh) of Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO). Gas allocation has also been indicated for one medium sized gas-based ammonia-urea plant based on gas from Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (f) No such proposal is under consideration. .. ..

Chemicals Units of Orissa

327. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleasd to state:

(a) the names of tne places in Orissa where chemicals units exist;

(b) whether suh units are microscopic in number; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to set up chemicals units in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) There are approximately 295 small and medium scale Chemicals Units in Orissa State. Some of the locations of these units are Cuttack, Ganjam, Bhubaneshwar, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Puri, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Keonjhar and Brajrajnagar.

Since a large part of the chemicals industry has been delicensed, individual decisions to make investments in this sector depend upon availability of infrastructure, raw material and market.

Import of Fertilizers

328. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fertilizers imported during 1993-94;

(b) the details of different kinds of Chemical fertilizers imported during 1993-94; and

(c) whether this has affected the profitability of Indian Fertilizer Plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Urea, MOP & DAP are the major fertilizers which are imported by the country. Urea is a canalised commodity for imports. During 1993-94, 28.40 lakh tonnes of urea were imported. According to the information available with the Government approximately 14.28 lakh tonnes of MOP and 15.69 lakh tonnes of DAP have been imported during the said period. Imports of MOP and DAP are decanalised.

(c) While about 85 per cent of the country's demand of urea and 60 per cent of DAP are met from indigenous production, the entire requirement of MOP is met through imports.

Urea is under price control and the issue price of indigenous and imported urea is uniform. The import of urea is regulated by the Government. Hence there is no effect on the profitability of the domestic industry. DAP is a decontrolled fertilizer and its imports are decanalised. Cheap imports of DAP affected indigenous production during the early part of 1993-94. A special concession of Rs. 1000 PMT on the sale of indigenously produced DAP was extended during 1993-94 to make indigenous production competitive with imports.

Union Carbide to Dismantle its Plant at Bhopal

329. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted Union Carbide to dismantle and remove existing plant and machinaries from the Bhopal site;

(b) whether Government are aware as to whom this ill-fated plant and machineries are being sold;

(c) whether Government will ensure to put the entire plant and machineries for the test of sounders through technically competent persons prior to allowing use of these equipments;

(d) whether the use of compensation to gas victims has been fully settled; and

(e) if not, whether Government will attach the sales proceeds of the plant and machineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed that the plant and machinery are not case properties and therefore no prior permission of the Government is required. Union Carbide has not informed the Government of the persons to whom the plant and machinery are being sold. The Company has however, intimated that some of the dismantled equipments have been transferred to their manufacturing unit located within the country and others are being sold to interested buyers from time to time.

(d) and (e) Government has received the full amount of compensation as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Shortage of Fertilizers

330. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in the country in general and Maharashtra in particular are facing an acute shortage of fertilisers as Kharif production has since started in full swing with the enset of monsoon: